AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

After the nucleic acids have been extracted, their sequence is determined by a number of conventional methods. If one suspects the nature of the infectious particle, one may determine the sequence by PCR amplification and detection using specific primers and/or an oligonucleotide probe or series of oligonucleotides. Alternatively, the ~~PCT~~ PCR amplification itself may be used as an assay or as an amplification resistance test because a specific set of primers that don't amplify a nucleic acid is indicative of the lack of a nucleic acid containing sequences complementary to the primers in close proximity. This is particularly useful for typing the strain of influenza virus, determining the genotype and likely chemosensitivity of HIV, HCV, M. tuberculosis or other microorganisms. For infectious particles where less is known or suspected, sequencing after amplification is preferred. Amplification is traditionally performed by PCR with known or random primers or by ligation into a vector and cloning although other methods may also be performed. So-called "shotgun" cloning and sequencing is preferred.